



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of (SCR 103)
URGING THE INCLUSION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INTERVENTION
TREATMENT PROGRAMS, WELLNESS PLANS, AND HOLISTIC LIVING
SYSTEMS OF CARE IN THE STATE OF HAWAII'S RESPONSE TO THE RISE OF
MISUSE AND ABUSE OF OPIOIDS OR ILLICIT SUBSTANCES IN HAWAII.

KENEKOA/SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, LUNA HO'OMALU/CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

KENEKOA/SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, LUNA HO'OMALU/CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 28, 2019

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SCR 103, including the
3 intent to integrate the focus of bringing forward Native Hawaiian voices and including cultural
4 intervention treatment programs, wellness plans, and holistic systems of care within the Hawaii
5 Opioid Initiative (HOI). This resolution calls for greater inclusion of Native Hawaiian cultural
6 interventions in substance abuse treatment programs. The DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse
7 Division (ADAD) understands the need for greater incorporation and consideration of cultural
8 programs and have continued to work toward inclusiveness of these programs as an integral part
9 of the continuum of care.

10 Native Hawaiians make up a disproportionate share of substance abuse treatment
11 admissions in Hawaii. For FY2018 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018), Native Hawaiian
12 admissions represented 2,313 or 44.6% of the total number of adults and adolescents (5,187)
13 admitted into ADAD-contracted substance abuse treatment and recovery support service
14 programs. This is almost three times the admissions rate for Caucasians (15.9% or 825), and over
15 five times that for Filipinos (8.9% or 464) and Other Pacific Islanders (8.2% or 425).

1 Of the total Native Hawaiian admissions for FY2018, 195 (or 8%) of these cases are
2 Native Hawaiians admitted for a primary, secondary or tertiary substance use of Heroin, Non-
3 Prescription Methadone or Other Opiates/Synthetics.

4 ADAD has a long history of supporting integration of cultural practices in the provision
5 of substance abuse treatment and recovery support services. In its RFP and purchase of service
6 contracts, ADAD was the first to support the use of the American Medical Association's HCPCS
7 (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) code for reimbursement, clinical and data
8 tracking of cultural activities related to health record documentation. Recently the National
9 Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), which represents all
10 state/territorial Single State Authorities (SSAs), of which ADAD is the Hawaii SSA, presented
11 on Hawaii ADAD's movement toward support and promotion of integrating cultural activities in
12 its RFP process. Specifically, ADAD has included cultural activities as equally billable to any
13 western intervention or service when the activity is identified as addressing risk factors for
14 substance abuse. This allows ADAD to "carve-in", rather than "carve-out" cultural activities and
15 allows contracted providers to determine the efficacy of cultural activities and practices for their
16 individual programs and patients. We believe that this approach embraces the diversity of
17 practices and activities, promotes the efficacy of cultural practices and validates cultural
18 practices as an integral part of the treatment and recovery process. Hawaii ADAD has promoted
19 its support of integrating cultural healing activities, specifically with a Native Hawaiian focus,
20 through presentations at the American Psychological Association Annual Conventions in 2004
21 and 2013, and at the 2016 International Indigenous Health Symposium sponsored by the
22 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. In 2017, ADAD partnered with
23 SAMHSA and the Queen's Medical Center for an all-day workshop on "Addressing Opioid-
24 Related Misuse and Overdose: Business and Cultural Sustainability."

25 The DOH remains committed to building interagency relationships amongst private and
26 non-profit stakeholders. ADAD has fostered these relationships through the HOI and the
27 formation of workgroups on topics such as: treatment access, prescriber education, data informed
28 decision making, prevention and public education, pharmacy-based interventions, law
29 enforcement, and screening, brief intervention, and treatment. The HOI has worked with

1 members of the Native Hawaiian community, who have offered guidance and expertise in
2 planning and implementing services statewide. An example of this collaboration is ADAD
3 contract with Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), an innovative
4 medical education and mentoring model building primary care capacity while improving access
5 to specialty health care in rural communities.

6 Through the HOI, ADAD is committed to supporting efforts in recruiting stakeholders
7 focusing on Native Hawaiian care, especially within the scope of integrating culturally relevant
8 components of substance abuse treatment continuum of care.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



SCR103

URGING THE INCLUSION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INTERVENTION TREATMENT PROGRAMS, WELLNESS PLANS, AND HOLISTIC LIVING SYSTEMS OF CARE IN THE STATE OF HAWAI'I'S RESPONSE TO THE RISE OF MISUSE AND ABUSE OF OPIOIDS OR ILLICIT SUBSTANCES IN HAWAI'I.

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

March 28, 2019

1:16 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR103, a measure urging the inclusion of Native Hawaiian cultural intervention treatment programs, wellness plans, and holistic living systems of care in the State of Hawai'i's response to the rising misuse and abuse of opioids and illicit substances in Hawai'i.

OHA has long advocated for meaningful policies that can reduce health inequities faced by Native Hawaiians. This includes OHA's successful efforts to codify a "social determinants of health" approach to health planning through Act 155 (Reg. Sess. 2014), and require state agencies to take a holistic and systemic approach to addressing health disparities seen in Native Hawaiian and other communities. Notably, such an approach is consistent with traditional Hawaiian understandings of health, and may be the most effective and efficient way to produce positive individual and community health outcomes. Most recently, OHA's 2019 Legislative Package included a measure to systemically address mental health disparities in the Native Hawaiian community through culturally grounded programs and services, by requiring that the State Council on Mental Health include members with experience and expertise in Native Hawaiian cultural concepts or practices related to health or healing; research shows that culturally grounded approaches can foster positive mental health outcomes far more effectively than purely Western approaches.

As an agency, OHA understands the unique relief that culturally grounded intervention programs and approaches may provide for Native Hawaiians and others struggling with substance abuse issues and their underlying mental health challenges. Accordingly, OHA believes that this measure can serve as a critical step towards systemically addressing substance abuse issues in the Native Hawaiian and broader communities.

Therefore, the OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SCR103. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony In Support of SCR 103
Thursday, March 28, 2019
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Akahai me ka lōkahi. `Olu`olu me ka ha`aha`a. Ahonui me ke aloha. Aloha i na mamo a pau. Aloha i nā mamo a pau. He inoa no nā pua o Ali`i Pauahi.

Aloha mai kakou! My name is Kehaulani Lum, and I am the President of Ali`i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, a chartered member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, since 1973. Ali`i Pauahi's motto is "Ka ikaika a ka mana`o a me ke kino a me ka `uhane. Strong in Mind, Body and Spirit."

Mahalo nui loa Chairs Shimabukuro and Baker, Vice Chairs Kahele and Chang, and Members of the Committees. Mahalo nui loa for introducing this resolution, for holding this hearing, and for your kind and loving consideration of this serious issue.

Ali`i Pauahi **strongly SUPPORTS SCR 103** which urges: (1) The inclusion of Native Hawaiian cultural intervention treatment programs, wellness plans, and holistic living systems of care in the State's response to the rise and misuse of opioid or illicit substances in Hawai`i; (2) Proportionate representation of Native Hawaiian cultural and wellness organizations and practitioners on the State of Hawai`i's Opioid Initiative or an appropriate focus group within the initiative; and, (3) The appropriation of sufficient funds by the Legislature, and released by the Governor, to comply with section 226-20, Hawai`i Revised Statutes.

Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in Hawai`i, ranking higher than traffic fatalities and firearms. Between 2012 and 2016, a person in Hawai`i died from a drug overdose every 2.4 days. According to billing data from the Hawai`i Health Information Corporation, opioid-related overdoses resulted in over \$9.8 million in hospital charges in 2016. These costs are significantly higher, when lost productivity, health care, family stability, and crime are factored in to the equation.

The misuse of harmful drugs, from opioids to alcohol, cocaine, meth and "ice" often in a combination, is infiltrating Hawai`i's families and communities and is economically, physically, socially and spiritually impairing our quality of life.

The Hawai`i Opioid Initiative informs us that, "Hawaii continues to experience alarming trends and disparities in the rates of behavioral health conditions, as well as disparities based on geographic and ethnic identity."

To this point, Native Hawaiians comprise at least 40% of the statewide population admitted to addiction treatment programs, and the figure is rising. That number is more than two times greater than the percentage of Native Hawaiian females (19.2%) and males (14.5%) who hold post-secondary degrees. Last December, it was announced that in a 7-year period, Hawaiians had the highest opioid poisoning rate among Hawai`i residents.

Studies show that risk factors, such as environment, poverty, personal and cultural trauma, tend to be associated with increased rates of substance abuse. The litany of trauma exacted upon the indigenous people of Hawai`i is well known. Yet, the absence of meaningful cultural intervention that addresses the deep source of our genealogical wounds, I believe, keeps far too many of us from fulfilling our greatest potential as the great navigators of the world.

According to OHA, “Cultural integration in health services refers to health care that meets the social, cultural, and linguistic needs of patients. Successful integration in health services requires incorporating traditional and contemporary knowledge and practices into patient care....In western cultures, illness is conceived as a pathological imbalance in the body, whereas Native Hawaiians also reference illness as a disruption in lōkahi (harmony).” In other words, this is a disease of deep dis-ease.

The need for culturally-rooted programs, holistic health and wellness plans, and living systems that reconnect each and every one of us to the highest power of our Kumulipo, our creation, and all of the mana and beauty that descends from it, has never been more evident than now.

Hawai`i holds the key to stabilizing the forces that are threatening the survival of our islands and our planet. Our mana is powerful medicine. We need not look any further than our own Hōkūle`a and the many voyaging canoes and hundreds and thousands of people around the world who have been inspired by our esteemed practitioners, our ancestral knowledge, courage, and humility, to know that the answers to our well-being are right under our feet.

The Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division has rightfully received national and international recognition for integrating holistic treatment systems, including those that support Native Hawaiian cultural values, programs, kūpuna (elders) and practitioners on nearly every island. Cultural activities offered include: Kūpuna as cultural experts working with western-trained staff to serve those in need; `Āina and kai-based practices and cultural values immersion; and, traditional healing practices, such as lomilomi, ho`oponopono, and lā`au lapa`au. Yet, the demand for cultural integration far exceeds current resources, which, themselves, are in flux.

This measure recognizes powerful remedies, which can eliminate health disparities by addressing social determinants of health, and seeks to employ them, wholeheartedly, to save more lives from being lost to opioids and other substance misuse. The Native Hawaiian people did not create this epidemic. But, we have the means to end it.

As the State addresses what it calls, “one of the most pervasive and deadliest public health and drug misuse crises” in the history of the United States,” we humbly request the inclusion of the greatest remedy known to humanity, the spirit of Aloha manifested in all ways: Through love, respect, social, emotional and physical resources, practice, representation and Aloha Kekahi i Kekahi.

Mahalo nui loa for your love for the health and well being of our Native Hawaiian people and culture and for the future of all of Hawai'i Nei. We urge the PASSAGE of this resolution.

SCR-103

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 12:07:59 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2019 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Keaulani	Testifying for Living Life Source Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments:

We join hands with all of you, to take up the kuleana, the great kuleana, which is demanded of us, to reach out and save our beloved people of Hawaii. To remove the darkness of generational trauma and fill it with the brightness and awesome mana of the land, the , the sky and our ancestors.

We cannot do this alone. The need is too great It will take all of us to help heal the lost children.

Mahalo, malama pono, I love you

March 27, 2019

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, and
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

RE: SCR 103 URGING THE INCLUSION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INTERVENTION TREATMENT PROGRAMS, WELLNESS PLANS, AND HOLISTIC LIVING SYSTEMS OF CARE IN THE STATE OF HAWAII'S RESPONSE TO THE RISE OF MISUSE AND ABUSE OF OPIOIDS OR ILLICIT SUBSTANCES IN HAWAII

**Hearing Date: March 28, 2019
Location: Conference Room 016
Time: 1: 16 p.m.**

To the Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) testifies in **strong support of the intent and purpose of SCR 103, which calls for the inclusion and use of Native Hawaiian approaches in the State of Hawaii's response to the misuse and abuse of opioids or illicit substances in Hawaii.**

CNHA supports the intent of this resolution because Native Hawaiians are disproportionately overrepresented in the number of individuals who are diagnosed and admitted to addiction treatment programs (40%) at a rate nearly two times that of the Native Hawaiians percentage of the state population (21%). Furthermore, Hawaiian based ways of knowing and living have been proven successful in longstanding federal programs like the Native Hawaiian Education Act and the Native Hawaiian Healthcare Act for their ability to effectively reach and improve the lives of Native Hawaiians in the education and health fields, respectively.

CNHA urges the passage of this resolution because it believes that rigorous treatment programs aligned with the people being diagnosed and treated, formulated and implemented in a way which is viewed as relevant to those who are being treated, and formulated and implemented in a way consistent with the enduring values and beliefs these individuals being treated and cared for hold most dear, have the greatest likelihood of success.

For these reasons, CNHA urges the passage and implementation of SCR 103.

Respectfully,



J. Kuhio Lewis
Chief Executive Officer



LATE

Papa Ola Lokahi

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

Board of Directors
Member Organizations

Hoola Lahui Hawaii

Hui No Ke Ola Pono

Hui Malama Ola Na O'iwi

ALU LIKE

Ke Ola Mamo

E Ola Mau

University of Hawaii

Hawaii State Department of Health

Na Puuwai

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Kupuna

Aunt Betty Jenkins

Executive Director

Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD

SENATE KŌMIKE KULEANA HAWAI'I

Kenekoa Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Luna Ho'omalū, Chair
Kenekoa Kaiali'i Kahele, Hope Luna Ho'omalū

SENATE KŌMIKE COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION & HEALTH

Kenekoa Rosalyn H. Baker, Luna Ho'omalū
Kenekoa Stanley Chang, Hope Luna Ho'omalū

SCR 103 - RELATING TO INCLUSION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INTERVENTION DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Pō'ahā, Malaki 28, 2019, 1:16 PM
Lumi 'Aha Kūkā 016, Ke Kapikala Moku'āina

Aloha to the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of both committees.

Papa Ola Lōkahi (POL), the 30-year-old Native Hawaiian Health Board, **SUPPORTS** the intent of this resolution.

There is considerable research indicating that cultural interventions and wellness plans produce more positive outcomes in addressing drug use and abuse. The pivotal 1985 *E Ola Mau - Hawaiian Health Needs Assessment* and every subsequent assessment of Hawaiian health highlight improved outcomes when treatment is accessible, affordable, and — relevant here — acceptable.

While there is a lack of ethnic data in the 2013, 2017 and 2019 Opioid reports issued by the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD), we have learned from ADAD that Native Hawaiians comprise 44.6% of the total number of adults and adolescents admitted into ADAD-contracted treatment centers. This is quite serious, warranting curricula that integrate cultural interventions that will result in more acceptable and successful outcomes.

ADAD also reports that 8% of Native Hawaiian admissions in FY2018 are for opioids, compelling the State to look at programs addressing use and abuse of *all* illicit substances.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to SUPPORT this resolution.

SCR-103

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 8:39:13 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2019 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for hearing this resolution and for your sensitivity to the needs of Native Hawaiians. I found the statistics concerning Native Hawaiians alarming, i.e. that Native Hawaiians comprise at least 40% of the Statewide population admitted to addiction treatment programs, representing more than double the Native Hawaiian community's percentage of the total population.

It is therefore very appropriate to incorporate Native Hawaiian healing practices into the prevention and treatment programs for opioid addiction, i.e., in the state of Hawaii's response to the rise of misuse and abuse of opioids or illicit substances in Hawaii. Papa Ola Lokahi would be a good resource for identifying those Native Hawaiian treatment programs and cultural practitioners.

Regarding the be it resolved clause concerning an appropriate focus group, recommend the inclusion of individuals who have successfully recovered from their addiction. It is extremely helpful to favor their participation as living role models who know what enabled their own success and the treatment programs that helped.

Strongly recommend passage of this resolution.

SCR-103

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:11:25 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2019 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juliet Begley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support SCR103 to include Native Hawaiian Cultural intervention programs in response to the rise of opioid and illicit substance abuse within Hawai'i which is decimating many Native Hawaiians and impacting negatively many families. We need to stop the loss of Hawaiian lives and other people in Hawaii to this scourge of opioid drug addiction.

mahalo.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 103

Aloha Senators Baker, Chang, Shimabokuro and Kahele,

Yesterday I was informed that our new UH West O'ahu degree concentration in Hawaiian and Indigenous Health & Healing was approved by the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. With your past assistance and appropriation, we are presently on a search for an Indigenous Health Science Faculty lead for the concentration. This is the beginning of a completely new field of study.

We know that we must be true to the Hawaiian healing foundation of ho'oponopono, lomilomi and lapa'au. Our intent is to document, preserve and pass down indigenous healing practices. Another goal is to share these practices with Western Medicine in a collaborative and respectful manner.

Having worked as a Medical Director and pediatrician at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center during the "Ice" epidemic, I know that value of culturally appropriate and culturally humble treatment. This is a chance to integrate needed treatment with training. This is a chance to grow our own, from the community, for the community. This is a chance to really make a difference.

For these reasons, I support SCR 103

Salamat for your attention and Mabuhay to your Families,

Custodio

"Dr. Ric"

Ricardo C. Custodio, M.D., M.P.H.

Reede Scholar in Minority Health Policy, Harvard University

SCR-103

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:20:42 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2019 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Kameoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT SCR 103 which urges: (1) The inclusion of Native Hawaiian cultural intervention treatment programs, wellness plans, and holistic living systems of care in the State's response to the rise and misuse of opioid or illicit substances in Hawai'i; (2) Proportionate representation of Native Hawaiian cultural and wellness organizations and practitioners on the State of Hawaii's Opioid Initiative or an appropriate focus group within the initiative; and, (3) The appropriation of sufficient funds by the Legislature, and released by the Governor, to comply with section 226-20, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Please pass this resolution to take actions that will integrate and support Native Hawaiian cultural treatment programs and prevention practices into Hawai'i's system of care and aloha for those who affected by opioids and other illicit substances.

– Thank you

SCR-103

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 12:41:25 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2019 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Mahealani Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support SCR 103. As a primary care physician who serves predominantly Native Hawaiian patients at Ke Ola Mamo Native Hawaiian Health System, I have personally witnessed and experienced the critical role of cultural integration in one's healing. It is widely accepted that Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. The Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division has even received national and international recognition for integrating holistic treatment systems, including those that support Native Hawaiian cultural programs, kÅ«puna, and practitioners. However, the demand for such integration far exceeds current resources. I have cared for a multitude of patients affected by the opioid crisis, many of whom are Native Hawaiian, yet there remains a deficit of cultural integration in the treatment programs available. This measure recognizes the value of these holistic practices and practitioners and seeks to integrate them in the State's response to the opioid epidemic, with Aloha, to save lives lost to opioids and other substance misuse. Mahalo nui loa to the Committee for your serious concern for the health and well being of our Native Hawaiian people and culture. I urge the PASSAGE of this resolution.

Dr. Nicole Mahealani Lum, DO

SCR-103

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 12:43:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2019 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Palacat-Nelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SCR-103

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 1:59:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2019 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT SCR 103 which urges: (1) The inclusion of Native Hawaiian cultural intervention treatment programs, wellness plans, and holistic living systems of care in the State's response to the rise and misuse of opioid or illicit substances in Hawai'i; (2) Proportionate representation of Native Hawaiian cultural and wellness organizations and practitioners on the State of Hawaii's Opioid Initiative or an appropriate focus group within the initiative; and, (3) The appropriation of sufficient funds by the Legislature, and released by the Governor, to comply with section 226-20, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in Hawai'i, ranking higher than traffic fatalities and firearms. Between 2012 and 2016, someone died from a drug overdose in Hawai'i every 2.4 days. According to billing data from the Hawai'i Health Information Corporation, opioid-related overdoses resulted in over \$9.8 million in hospital charges in 2016, the vast majority of which was sourced by Medicaid or Quest. Add to this, the costs of crime, incarceration, lost wages, individual and family hardship and societal breakdown, and the damage runs deep.

The misuse of substances from opioids to alcohol and methamphetamine, often in combination, is devastating Hawai'i families and communities and is economically, spiritually, socially and physically impairing our quality of life. According to the Hawai'i Opioid Initiative, "Hawaii continues to experience alarming trends and disparities in the rates of behavioral health conditions, as well as disparities based on geographic and ethnic identify."

Native Hawaiians comprise at least 40% of the statewide population admitted to addiction treatment programs. Yet, despite the State's best efforts to address what it calls "one of the most pervasive and deadliest public health and drug misuse crises" in the history of the United States, there is a need for sustained meaningful cultural intervention, holistic health and wellness plans across the State.

It is widely accepted that Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. Indeed, the Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division has received national and international recognition for integrating holistic treatment systems, including those that support Native Hawaiian cultural programs, kÅ«puna, and

practitioners. Yet, the demand for such integration far exceeds current resources. This measure recognizes the value of these holistic practices and practitioners and seeks to integrate them in the State's response to the epidemic, with Aloha, to save lives lost to opioids and other substance misuse.

Mahalo nui loa to the Committee for your serious concern for the health and well being of our Native Hawaiian people and culture. I urge the PASSAGE of this resolution.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Elizabeth Winternitz